

Remarks

Claims 1-12 remain pending. By this paper, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to clarify that data is maintained independently of a host site database. No claims have been canceled.

In the office action mailed April 10, 2001, the Examiner has again maintained the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand et al. (U.S. 5,710,900, hereinafter "Anand '900") in view of Peters et al. (U.S. 5,884,284, hereinafter "Peters"), as well as the rejection of claims 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand '900 in view of Peters, and in further view of Melchione et al. (U.S. 5,930,764, hereinafter "Melchione"). Both rejections are again respectfully traversed, and reconsideration requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicants' independent claim 1 requires a system for generating an on-line report containing user billing and inventory information having a host site database for storing the user billing and inventory information, and a host site processor terminal having a view manager arranged to generate a set of function commands which can be selectively launched by user input, and a data manager arranged to relate data maintained independently from the host site database and input by a user with the user's billing and inventory data for display as part of a requested report. Likewise, independent claim 8 requires a method for generating an on-line report containing user billing and inventory information that generates a graphical user interface for providing a set of function commands which can be selectively launched to graphically display a list of available views each of which contains a report relating to particular user information stored in a host site database, as well as create a new view and report, edit a view and report, allow input of user defined data and data maintained independently from the host site database, and relate the independently maintained data with the user's billing and inventory data for display in a report. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, neither Anand '900 nor Peters provides any suggestion whatsoever for an arrangement that allows generation of a billing and inventory report that can include both information stored in a host database as well as data maintained independent of the host database and input by the user.

More specifically, the report generating arrangement of Anand '900 fails to provide any teaching or suggestion that independently maintained data can be input and related

with a user's billing and inventory data for display in a report. The Examiner now responds to Applicants' previous arguments by relying on Peters to support the rejection. Specifically, the Examiner states "Peter [sic] does teach allowing data maintained separately from [sic] the data warehouse to be input and displayed on a report (col 6, lines 50-55; col 7, lines 1-14). The subscriber information, dwelling information, inventory information, and miscellaneous information are stored separately and include information to be displayed as a part on [sic] a report."

Initially, Applicants point out that Peters clearly states in col 6, lines 50 and 51, that the information noted by the Examiner is in fact merely different categories of data stored in the same central storage device 68. As such, none of this information is maintained separately or independently from the central storage device 68. In addition, the Examiner's position fails to appreciate that none of the data from these different categories is to be input by the user requesting generation of a report.

Simply stated, Anand neither teaches nor suggests allowing data maintained independently from a host database to be input and displayed on a report, let alone related by a host processor after input to a user's billing and invoice data for display in a report as set forth in claims 1 and 8. Only Applicants' claims 1 and 8 provide an arrangement that allows a user to customize an on-line billing and inventory report to relate data maintained independently from the host site, i.e., non-host database data, with a user's billing and inventory data for display in a report.

Peters does not overcome the above-noted deficiencies in the teachings of Anand '990. Peters merely integrates reporting of data maintained in various system databases. Like Anand '900, Peters provides no suggestion that data maintained independently from the central system can be related to a user's billing and inventory data for display in a report. In fact, all data is stored in central storage device 68. Only Applicants' claimed invention provides a truly flexible billing and inventory on-line report generating arrangement that permits separately maintained data to be related to a user's billing and inventory data for display on a report.

Thus, without conceding that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Anand and Peters as suggested by the Examiner, Applicants reiterate that the asserted combination still fails to teach or suggest every limitation of claim 1 and 8. As such,

Applicants contend that claims 1 and 8 are patentable over the combination of Anand '900 and Peters.

Regarding claims 2-7 and 9-12, without conceding the Examiner's position, Applicants contend these claims are allowable as a result of their respective dependency from claim 1 or 8.

From the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the references of record in this application, and reconsideration of the claims and passage of the application to issue are courteously solicited. If a telephone conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference with the undersigned is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

No fees are believed to be due on connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Thrice amended) A system for generating an on-line report containing user billing and inventory information comprising:

a host site connected to at least one user computer terminal via an on-line interconnection, said host site comprising a database for storing the user billing and inventory information, and a processor terminal connected to the on-line interconnection for receiving user report requests and sending reports created in response to the received requests and additional on-line user input, wherein said processor terminal comprises:

a view manager arranged to generate a set of function commands which can be selectively launched by user input to graphically display a list of available views each of which contains a report relating to particular user information stored in a database, create a new view and report, and edit a view and report; and

a data manager arranged to relate data maintained [separately from the database] independently from the host site and input by a user with the user's billing and inventory data for display as part of a requested report.

8. (Thrice Amended) A method for generating an on-line report containing user billing and inventory information in response to an inquiry from a user computer terminal via an on-line connection, said method comprising:

generating a graphical user interface for on-line access by the user, said graphical user interface providing a set of function commands which can be selectively launched to graphically display a list of available views each of which contains a report relating to particular user information stored in a host site database, create a new view and report, edit a view and report, allow input of user defined data and data [separately] maintained [from the database] independently from the host site, and relate the [separately] independently maintained data with the user's billing and inventory data for display in a report;

creating a report based on user responses to the set of commands; and
sending the created report to the user terminal via the on-line connection.

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